Oklahoma Chess Monthly

AUGUST 2021

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma

OCM

In This Issue:

- Games from Recent Events
- Coney Island Remembrance
- IM Donaldson Book Review
- Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

Editor's Note –

This month we have lots of annotated games, plus news of growing chess activity all over the region. But there are clouds on the horizon as the "Delta Variant" is prompting the government to start seek mask wearing again, even among vaccinated people. Did the Biden administration not consider how this would affect chess tournaments!?!?

We have a full slate of events coming up about once a month the rest of the year, and hopefully the Covid restrictions will be minimal and we can still play. For each event you plan to attend, check online beforehand to see if any changes in Covid policy are made. In the meantime, enjoy these games…

"Oklahoma's Official Chess Bulletin Covering Oklahoma Chess on a Regular Schedule Since 1982"

http://ocfchess.org

Oklahoma Chess Foundation

Register Online for Free

Editor: Tom Braunlich

Asst. Ed. Rebecca Rutledge

Published the 1st of each month.

Send story submissions and tournament reports, etc., by the 15th of the previous month to mailto:tom.braunlich@cox.net

©2021 All rights reserved.

Paul Covington (1800)
Howard Zhong (2307)
76th Oklahoma Open (3.4), 26.06.2021

(TB:) Everyone was asking to see Covington's big upset of Oklahoma's top player. I asked Paul to do some notes for us…

[Notes by Paul Covington]

I was shocked to see the round one pairing – I was on board one against the highest rated player. I had not played OTB in about three years. I played the London Opening since I had been studying it. The game started uneventfully, but as it entered the middle game there was a lot of maneuvering and I thought I was getting more and more behind. Doing these notes, I was surprised to see the engines were reporting slight edges for white, then for black. I was very uncomfortable, just trying to hang on. Howard would have never lost this game if it were not for the time scramble. Toward the end of this game I am not sure the moves are totally accurate.

1. d4 Nf6 2. Bf4 d5 3. Nd2 c5 4. e3 Nc6 5. c3 Bf5 6. Ngf3 e6 7. Be2 h6 8.Ne5 Be7 9. h3 O-O 10. O-O Nxe5 11. Bxe5 Ne4 12. Nf3 Rc8 13. Bd3 Qb6 14. dxc5 Qxb215. c4 Qa3 16. cxd5 exd5 17. Nd4

17…Nc3?? ±

This was a bad mistake. The best move was 17… Bd7 and the computer says: 18. Bxe4 dxe4 19. Rb1 Rxc5 20. Bxg7! Kxg7 21. Rxb7 Bc8 22. Rxe7 Rg5 with a complicated game.

18. Nxf5 Nxd1 19. Nxe7+ Kh8 20. Nxc8?? = With this move I lost the advantage. (The best move was 20. Rfxd1 Rce8 21.Bd6 with three active pieces for the queen.)

20… Qxd3 21. Rfxd1 Qe4 22. Bxg7+ Kxg7 23. Nd6 Qe6 24. Nxb7 Qc6 25. Nd6 Qxc5 26. Nf5+ Kh7 27. Rd4 Re8

(TB - Black's problem here is that white's position is very solid while black's pawns are scattered. So Howard next chooses a line that sacrifices some pawns in order to get white's a2-pawn, giving him some vague winning chances with his passed a-pawn, but leaving his own king wide open. It should be noted that Paul is playing very well throughout these complications!)

28. Rad1 Qc2 29. Nd6 Re6 30. Rxd5 Qxa2 31. R5d2 Qb3 32. Nxf7 Re7 33. Nd6 a5? ±
The computer calls this a mistake and says 33… Rd7 34. Rd3 Qa2 35. R1d2 Qb1+ 36. Rd1, but of course black was not satisfied with a draw and risks playing for more.

34. Nf5 Rf7 35. Nd4? = (35. e4! Is strong) 35… Qc4 36. Rc2 ± Qb4 37. Ra1 Rg7 38. Rca2 Rg5 39. Ra4 Qb6 40. Nf3

(TB - White could play to win the a-pawn with R4a3, supporting Nb3 next move and capturing on a5. But I'm sure Howard was hoping for that, as white would then be moving defenders away from his king and give black attacking chances.)

40…Rb5 41. Nd4 Rb1+ 42. Rxb1 Qxb1+ 43. Kh2 Qe1 44. Kg3 h5 45. Ra2 Qb4 46. Kh2?

[46. Nc6 Qd6+ Black will get the knight but

white will take the a-pawn and the computer says the resulting position is a fortress that is easy to draw for white.]

46... a4 (This pawn was causing problems as I could not capture it without loss of my rook or my knight.)

47. g3 Qc4 48. Rc2 Qb4 49. Rc7+

(I was pleased with this series of rook checks and was hoping to get a repetition for a draw.)

Kg6 50. Rc6+ Kf7 51. Rc7+ Ke8 52. Rc8+ Kd7 53. Rd8+ Kc7 54. Ne6+

54...Kc6

(TB - It should be noted that White also draws after the better 54...Kb7 55. Rd4! Qb6 56. Rxa4, Qxe6 57. Rf4 with a fortress draw for white.)

55. Nd4+ Kb7?? ±

Black could have drawn with Kc7... but of course he wasn't satisfied with that and went too far. We both were very short on time but Howard was down to seconds.

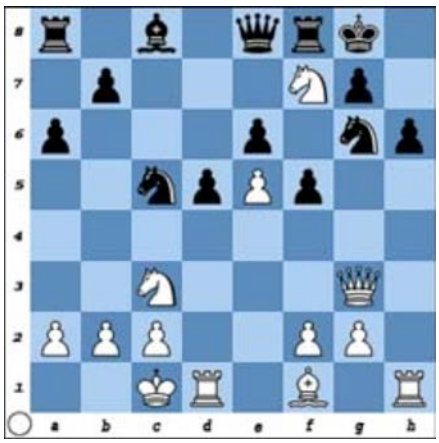
56. Rb8+ Kxb8 57. Nc6+ Kb7 58. Nxb4 Kb6
After a few more time scramble moves Howard resigned. 1-0

Veal, Joe (1950)
Zelnick,David (2134) [C14]
76th Oklahoma Open (3.4), 26.06.2021
[Notes by TB]
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7 5.e5 Nfd7 6.h4 a6 7.Qg4 Bxg5 8.hxg5 c5 9.g6 f5 10.Qf4 h6 11.dxc5 Nc6 12.Nf3 Ne7 13.Qg3 Nxc5 14.0-0-0 0-0 15.Ng5 Qe8

[15...hxg5? 16.Rh8+!!]

16.Nf7 Nxg6

[16...Rxf7 17.gxf7+ Kxf7]



17.Rxh6

[17.Nxh6+! gxh6 18.Rxh6 Kg7 19.Bb5 axb5 20.Rdh1 Rh8 21.Rxh8 Qxh8 22.Rxh8 Kxh8 23.Qxg6 is a spectacular win for white (Fritz). But the text move is also good.]

17...Qxf7 18.Rxg6 Bd7 19.Be2 f4!

[The only chance for counterplay.]

20.Qg4 f3 21.Bxf3

[21.gxf3!! is surprisingly much better, keeping black's pieces from getting as active as they do in the game by bringing pressure quickly down the g-file, i.e. 21...Qf4+ 22.Qxf4 Rxf4 23.Rdg1 Rf7 24.Kd2 etc.]

21...Qf4+ 22.Qxf4 Rxf4

At the cost of a pawn black has stopped the attack and has some relief, and his pieces finally get some activity. White should still be close to winning anyway, but it is hard for white to figure out how to make progress with the extra pawn, especially with the pawn on e5 weak; and Joe was slipping into time pressure.

23.Rg4 Rf5? 24.b4! Na4 25.Nxa4?

[25.Nxd5!! exd5 26.Bxd5+ Kf8 27.Bxb7 Rd8 28.e6! winning! Of course, that was difficult to see with 4 minutes on the clock.]

25...Bxa4 26.Re1 Rc8 27.Re2 Bb5 28.Rd2 Rxe5= 29.Kb2 Bc4 30.Rf4 g5 31.Rg4 Kg7 32.c3 Kf6 33.Rg3 Rh8 34.Rh3 Rh4 35.Rxh4 gxh4 36.Rd4 Be2 37.Rf4+ Kg5 38.Rf8?

[38.Rg4+ Kf5 39.Rxh4 Bxf3 40.gxf3 Re2+ 41.Kb3 Rxf2 42.Rh7 Rxf3 43.Rxb7 e5 looks strong for black in the rook ending, but the computer claims it is drawish after 44.Kc2 e4 *(*Or *44...Rf2+ 45.Kb3 e4?? 46.Rf7+)* 45.a4 Rf2+ 46.Kb3 e3 47.Re7]

38...Bxf3

The rest of the game was played in severe time pressure for both sides, as this tournament only had a 5 second delay on the clock.

39.Rxf3 Rf5! [Forcing a winning K+P endgame.]

40.Rxf5+ Kxf5 [40...exf5! wins more easily.]

41.Kc2 Ke4 42.Kd2 b5 43.Ke2 e5 44.a3 Kf4 45.f3 e4 46.fxe4 dxe4 0-1

Patton, Tom (2080)
Moerlin, Sky (1836) [D35]
76th Oklahoma Open (2.5), 26.06.2021
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 c6 5.cxd5 exd5 6.e3 Be7 7.Bd3 Nbd7 8.Qc2 0-0 9.Nge2 Re8 10.0-0 h6 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.Ng3 Bd6 13.Rfe1 Bxg3 14.hxg3 Be6 15.b4 Qe7 16.Rab1 Rec8 17.Na4 Nd7 18.Nc5 b6 19.Nxd7 Bxd7 20.Rec1 b5 21.Bf5 a5 22.Bxd7 Qxd7 23.Qc5?
[Loses control of the 2nd rank which proves fatal surprisingly quickly. Better: 23.a3 axb4 24.Rxb4 Rxa3 25.Rxb5=]
23...axb4 24.Rxb4 Rxa2 25.Rxb5? Qf5! 26.f3 Qd3 27.Rb7 Qe2 0-1

Wadhwa, Ananya (Unr)
Kunchanapalli, Havish (938) [D12]
76th Oklahoma Open (4), 27.06.2021
[Notes by TB]
Witness this well played game by two very young kids on board one, last round in the Booster section. I predict both of them might go far in chess if they keep at it.
1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Bf5 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qb3 Qb6 7.Nh4 Bg6 8.c5 Qxb3 9.axb3 e5 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.b4 Nd3+ 12.Bxd3 Bxd3 13.Bd2 g6 14.Nf3 Bg7 15.Ne5 Bf5 16.b5 Nd7 17.Nxd7 Kxd7 18.0-0 Bd3 19.bxc6+ bxc6 20.Rfd1 Bf8 21.Na4 Be7 22.Bc3 Bc2 23.Rd2
[23.Rdc1! would have won for her as she could hold onto the c-pawn.]
23...Bxa4 24.Bxh8 Rxh8 25.Rxa4 Bxc5 26.e4 [26.Kf1] 26...Re8 27.h3 Re5 28.b4 Bb6 29.exd5 Rxd5 30.Rxd5+ cxd5 31.b5?!
[The active black king is compensation for the exchange and threatens to escort the black passed pawn down to queen. White needs to bring up the king immediately to counter this! 31.Kf1 Kc6 32.Ra1 Kb5 33.Rb1 Kc4 34.Ke2]
31...Kd6 32.Ra6? Kc5 33.Ra2 Kxb5 34.Rd2 [34.Kf1 Bc5] 34...Kc4 35.Kh2? d4 36.Kg3 Kc3 37.Re2 d3 38.Re1 d2 39.Ra1 Kb2 40.Rh1 Kc2 41.Ra1 d1Q 42.Rxd1 Kxd1 [and black won.] 0-1

Kline, Les (1700) - Patton, Tom (2080)
[D32]
76th Oklahoma Open (2), 26.06.2021
[Notes by TB]

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 c5 3.c4 e6 4.cxd5 exd5 5.e3 Nf6 6.Bb5+ Nc6 7.0-0 Bd6 8.Nc3 0-0 9.dxc5 Bxc5 10.a3 Qe7 [A deliberate gambit of the d5 pawn.] 11.b4 Bd6 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Qxd5 Rd8 14.Qb3 Ne5 [14...Be6 15.Qb1 Bd5= Deep Fritz]
15.Nd4 Qh4 16.g3
[16.f4 Ng4 17.h3 Nf6 18.Nf3! Qg3 19.Ng5 White should be winning.]
16...Qh5 17.Be2 Ng4 18.Bxg4 Bxg4 19.f3 Bd7 20.Bb2 a5 21.bxa5
[Even though the computer approves this, it can't be right to invite black's undeveloped rook into the game. I'd prefer: 21.b5]
21...Rxa5 22.Ne2!?
[22.Qxb7 Rb8 23.Qxd7 Rxb2 24.Qd8+ Bf8 25.Qh4 Qxh4 26.gxh4 Rxa3=; 22.Qb6!? Be7 23.Rac1 is the computer's line for advantage to white.]

22...Rb5 23.Qc2 Rc5 24.Qd2 Qh6
[A sneaky move.] 25.Rad1 Ba4 26.Rc1 Be7 27.Qxd8+?? [27.Nd4=] 27...Bxd8
(No doubt White had intended 28.Rxc5 but had overlooked 28...Qxe3+ 29.Kg2 Qxc5)
0-1

THE CONEY ISLAND and the RED RIVER OPEN

by Jim Hollingsworth

Our intrepid roving reporter from Texas sends us this nice reminiscence, a snapshot of Oklahoma chess history including the Red River Open from last December. — TB

It started with a phone call.

My caller ID showed Luis Salinas, whom I've known over many years. His knowledge of Texas Chess Association (TCA) bylaws and tournament administration is legendary. When he speaks at the annual TCA membership meetings, it is like the old E.F. Hutton commercial; everybody listens. I call him occasionally. It is rare when he calls me. In fact, this may have been the first time he has ever called me.

"Hello Jim," he said, "I am thinking about organizing a tournament in Oklahoma City. What do you think?"

"I think it's a wonderful idea, and I'll be the first to sign up. I have a lot of friends in Oklahoma. It will be fun seeing some of them again."

We talked about an hour. He was still working on the details and appreciated my input. I told him about the Coney Island restaurant at 428 West Main in Oklahoma City. I promised to bring him and his staff some great chili dogs for lunch if it was still open. I was not sure since my last visit there was in July 2011. Fortunately, the place still exists.

As all Oklahoma chess old-timers know, the Coney Island restaurant was first established in 1924. Bill and Mary Mihas bought the business in 1967. In 1971 they opened a second store near the State Capital. Later her brother, Dimitrios "Jim" Smirlis, arrived from Greece to help operate the business. Sadly, and when he was 69, we all lost Dimtrios in February 2020.

In addition to being a successful businessman, Bill is a strong chess player, at least Class A strength. He keeps a chess board set up in the back of the store. In those days at least ten to twenty chess players could be found there every Saturday, moving the ivory pieces while munching on chili dogs. His first rated tournament was in

Bill Mihas (July 9, 2011) Photo by Alex Girard

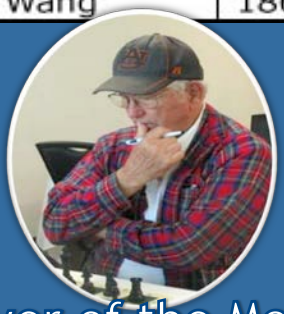
April 1992, when Tom Nichols organized a month-long eight-person tournament, the *Coney Island Tourney Series.* His second tournament was the 1977 National Open, where he scored 4/6 in the 329-player Reserve section. Beyond that he had a business to run and Saturdays were his busiest. He played chess between customers.

Mike Tubbs, of Oklahoma Chess Team fame, told me about Coney Island when I was a student at the nearby Health Science Center in the early 1990's. I lived a few blocks away and began visiting the Coney Island on Saturdays. It was obvious there was something special about Bill Mihas and the chess sanctuary he created in the heart of downtown Oklahoma City. I reached out to Rubin Wells and Mike Tubbs, Presidents of

TOP 25

For AUGUST 2021

Active Oklahoma Players				
	Player	This Month	Change	
1	Advait Patel	2537	0	
2	Howard Zhong	2302	0	
3	Ryan Amburgy	2205	-6	
4	Tom Braunlich	2200	0	
5	Mark Hulsey	2190	0	
6	David Zelnick	2137	0	▲
7	Anthony Paolercio	2080	0	
8	Veronika Zilajeva	2080	0	
9	Tom Patton	2077	0	
10	Charles D Unruh	2074	0	
11	James Long	2054	0	
12	Michael Nugent	2042	0	
13	Charles M Unruh	2024	0	
14	Matt Dalthorp	2015	0	
15	Jeff Colbert	2008	0	
16	Stephen Gehly	2000	0	
17	David Luscomb	1995	0	
18	Maxwell Barnes	1976	8	▲
19	Logan Zachare	1959	-12	▼
20	Wayne Hatcher	1926	0	
21	Jerry Casteel	1926	22	▲
22	Joe Dean Veal	1925	0	▼
23	Harold Brown Jr.	1901	0	▼
24	Chris Dooley	1888	0	
25	Oscar Wang	1865	-24	

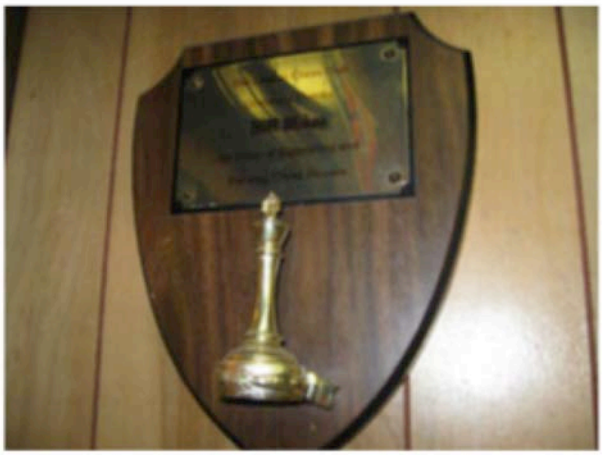


Player of the Month

PAUL COVINGTON

When you upset the state's top player you get to be POTM. Paul is newly arrived from Colorado and already an OCA board member.

the Oklahoma Chess Association and Lawton Chess Club, respectfully. They generously agreed on having their organizations split the cost of a plaque expressing appreciation. In a surprise Saturday ceremony the award was presented.



Plaque inscribed with *"The Lawton Chess Club Gratefully Thanks Bill Mihas for Years of Supporting and Feeding Chess Players"*

The pandemic caused significant changes for Coney Island. Bill Mihas is alive and well but staying safe at home. Longtime employee Merdina runs things in his absence. Indoor dining is prohibited, and all tables and chairs are neatly stacked against the wall. Bill's famous chessboard is idle but remains set up and ready for action. And the plaque remains hanging in its position of honor.

The excuse to munch on delicious chili dogs was the 72-player Red River Open, conducted the weekend before Christmas, at the luxurious Embassy Suites by Hilton next to the campus of the University of Oklahoma Health Science Center (OUHSC). True to my word, I was the first to register. I spent nearly 20 years total playing chess in Oklahoma and I achieved my master's degree at the OUHSC's College of Public Health in 1996. So, I looked forward to seeing the

PUZZLES

Answers Next Page

WHITE to move and win. (Easy)
Carlsen-Tari, World Cup 2021

WHITE to move and win. (Difficult)
Anand-Carlsen, 2017 (Rapid)

campus and visiting old friends.

Luis Salinas and Barb Swafford ran one of the best tournaments I have ever experienced. The chess sets and boards provided by the Dallas Chess Club were magnificent. Rebecca Rutledge recruited volunteers to set up everything. They did a wonderful job and packed everything up when it was time to leave. There were zero complaints about anything. I overheard numerous compliments about and to Luis and Barb for running a smooth tournament.

As Luis told me, *"So many times Oklahoma players come down and support Dallas Chess Club events. It's time to bring the Dallas Chess Club to them."*

The only glitch, if it can be called that, is Luis and Barb needed an Oklahoma Tournament Director for the 19-player K-12 Under 1200 scholastic section. Times being what they are that was not possible. Their last resort was me and I accepted. Two half-point byes for the first two rounds and an opportunity to relive memories was fine with me.

The kids I met are the best. So are their parents. Everyone was friendly, courteous, and helpful. What really impressed me was there were no issues with understanding rules, recording moves or clock management. I complimented the players and parents and asked them pass on my praise to the Oklahoma scholastic coaches.

Oklahoma's players are great sportsmen.

Will there be a Red River Open II in 2021?

I will be the first to sign up!

Every scholastic player received a customized medal like this one.

Answers to the Puzzles

(1) Carlsen won with 1. Ne7+ If black's K goes to the rook file, then 2.Rh5 is mate. Otherwise if 1…Kf8, then 2. Nc6! Wins a piece, because the black rook can't leave the back rank (3.Rb8 will be mate because the white knight controls the escape square).

(2) Here Anand uncorked a beautiful queen sac. 1. Nxe5, Bxd1 2. Nd7!! Now white's two knights will crash through on the f6 square for a mate. For example, if 2…Be7 3. Nexf6+ Bxf6 4. Re8+! Qxe8 5. Nxf6 mate.

A NEW CHESS CLUB OPENS IN TULSA!

Midtown Chess Club

TULSA

Two private quiet rooms suitable for USCF-rated play at all time controls, with tournaments, lectures, simuls, matches, and other fun events planned!

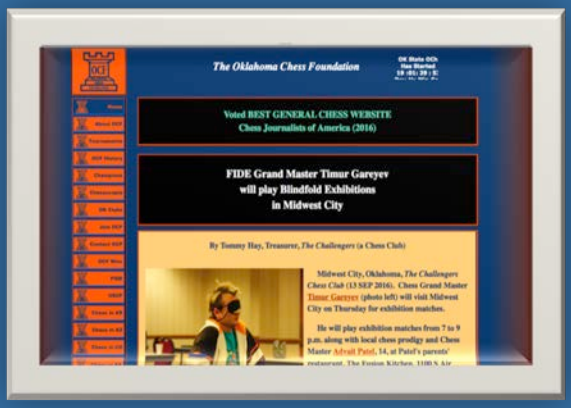
SUNDAYS at 1:30pm
Harvard Avenue Baptist Church (17th and Harvard)

SATURDAY ZOOM MEETINGS at 9:00am
Zoom Meetings with Puzzles and Fun.

•

Inquiries:
tom.braunlich@cox.net

Visit
www.ocfchess.org


The Oklahoma Chess Foundation
Voted BEST GENERAL CHESS WEBSITE
Chess Journalists of America (2016)
FIDE Grand Master Timur Gareyev
will play Blindfold Exhibitions
in Midwest City

Voted BEST GENERAL CHESS WEBSITE
Chess Journalists of America (2016)

Actively Managed by Jim Hollingsworth
Our Intrepid Texican Volunteer

Get
OCF Member Content like the OCM
Plus
- ✓ Breaking News
- ✓ Archived Chess Information
- ✓ Useful Chess Links

… and more

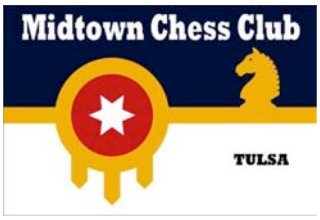
FOUR New Oklahoma Chess Clubs

Norman, OK—
The *Sooner Chess Club* (in Norman) meets every Monday 6-10pm at Baptist Collegiate Ministries, 1203 N.Elm. Norman,OK. Upstairs.
Contact: Steve Byas (405) 366-1125
or byassteve@yahoo.com
OTB slow games, occasional blitz.

Lawton, OK—
The *Lawton Chess Club* meets every Wednesday 5-9 pm , at the White Buffalo Coffee Shop, 2400 NW Cache Road.
Contact: Mike Tubbs (580) 357-3011
or amtubbychess@gmail.com .
OTB games and unrated tournaments.

Okmulgee, OK—
Raymond Griffin has opened a new coffee shop downtown called *"Common Grounds"* — and promises chess play there on Friday nights. Address: 215 W. 7th Street, across from the theater.

Tulsa, OK—



The *Midtown Chess Club* in Tulsa has a new semi-permanent place with two comfortable and quiet rooms suitable for USCF-rated play of all time controls, as well as lectures and simuls that are planned. SUNDAYS at 1:30pm, Harvard Ave Baptist Church, 17th and Harvard, upstairs. Contact: Tom Braunlich

ST. LOUIS CHESS CLUB PLANS MAJOR EXPANSION

The best chess club in the world is in St. Louis, and now they are planning to double in size and take over the entire block! The work is continuing throughout this year, and will include upgrading the chess-themed Kingside Diner, as well as more accessibility with an elevator, new chess classrooms and GM tournament facilities. See this nice video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7ld6In6Bgl

This club is a must-see destination for any chess player. Go during one of the two GM tournaments they are having in August! See my April 2017 article in OCM for the best ways to visit:

http://ocfchess.org/pdf/OCM-2017-04-01.pdf

Hollingsworth Talks Chess on Military Podcast

Jim Hollingsworth, who among many other things organizes the annual Armed Forces Open Championships (October, in Grapevine, TX) and is always seeking support and donations, appeared on a military vlog:

https://youtu.be/JFGmOjL9rpQ

Several Okies are all set to play in the 62nd edition coming up. Jim has a few things to say about that.

Zhong, Howard (2307)
Unruh, Charles D (2063) [A59]
76th Oklahoma Open (4), 27.06.2021
[Notes by Braunlich]
This game was a nice old-fashioned Benko Battle.

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.bxa6 g6 6.Nc3 Bxa6 7.Nf3 d6 8.e4

I remember 'back in the day' Pal Benko himself remarked that this allows an easy game for black, because white loses time having to artificially castle now and black's pieces all get to their optimum positions. However, nowadays players often are choosing this line as it is a simple way to fight against the gambit -- simple in the sense of easy to remember, compared to 8.g3.

8...Bxf1 9.Kxf1 Nbd7 10.g3 Bg7 11.Kg2 0-0 12.a4 Ra6

Signaling black is going to post his Q on a8 followed by Rfb8 for full heavy-piece pressure on the queenside files, a typical plan here. I think a more modern plan is 12...Qb6]

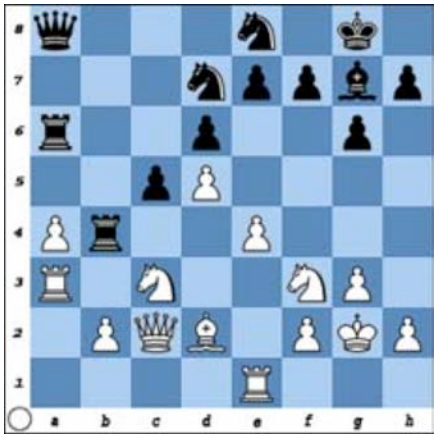
13.Qc2 Qa8 14.Re1 Rb8 15.Ra3

A flexible plan. The R is put on a protected square removing some of black's tactics, and he has some long-term ideas of Re-a1, a4ña5 combined with Nd2ñcr-b6; or even b2ñb4. Black will get his minor pieces involved with Ne8ñc7ñb5. Black can also try to break open the center with ...e6 at some point, but it is always risky.

15...Rb4

Putting pressure on the a4 pawn which he hopes to win someday after a future Bxc3. If white doesn't react black also will consider following with ...c4 and ...Nc5.]

16.Bd2! Ne8 [Threatening the pawn.]



17.a5!?

Is this a bluff? Instead 17.b3 c4 would have been typical Benko stuff – Black could win the pawn on a4 but only after giving up his bishop and ending up in a position where white has a space advantage.

17...Nc7?

[17...Rxa5! looks like it runs into a skewer to win the exchange after 18.Rxa5 Qxa5 19.Nd1 but Black here has 19...Qa4! to get out of it, with a very good game.;

OR 17...Rxa5 18.Rea1 Rxa3 19.Rxa3 Qb7 with equality is the computer's top line.]

18.Nd1 Rb8 19.Rb3 Ra7 20.Ra3?

[20.Ne3 Nb5 21.Nc4 Nd4 22.Rxb8+ Qxb8 23.Nxd4 Bxd4 24.Rb1 with the plan of b2ñb4 is winning.]

20...Na6 21.Ra4 Nb4

Black has cut off protection for the a-pawn and acheived even play.

22.Bxb4 cxb4 23.Qd2!? [23.Ne3 Rxa5=]

23...Nc5 24.Ra2

[24.Rxb4? Rxb4 25.Qxb4 Nd3]

24...Rxa5 25.Rxa5 Qxa5 26.Nd4 Bxd4

This is also the computer's choice. I would have preferred to keep the bishop and played ...Qa2.

27.Qxd4 Qb5

28.Re3!

Black wanted to exchange queens with ...Qd3. Endgames are better for him. Howard prevents this and by keeping queens on he will have long-term ideas of attacking black's king, which has lost its dark square defender. White can play for f2-f4 and e4-e5 for example.

28...f6 29.f4 Nd7?!

The computer is not scared of the e4-e5 threat and wants to play 29...Ra8 here, with the instructive plan of meeting 30.e5 with 30...dxe5 31.fxe5 f5! when white's king would be exposed also, and black has ideas of ...Ra1 or ...Rd8. Note how white's N on d1 is out of play here.]

30.Nf2 Qc5 31.Qd2 Qc4 32.b3 Qb5 33.Nd3

[White has activated the N. White still has kingside attacking hopes.]

33...Nc5

[33...f5!? is a typical Benko-style shot to undermine d5 and would be a more aggressive try for black here. 34.exf5 Qxd5+ 35.Kg1 Nc5 36.fxg6 hxg6 37.Qe2 Ra8 is one example line here the computer gives, still calling it equal.]

34.Nxc5 Qxc5 35.e5!?

Rolling the dice as black was in time trouble here. [35.h4!?]

35...fxe5?

[35...dxe5! 36.fxe5 Rd8 wins a pawn as white's center collapses. White would not have enough to attack and would have to trade queens with *(36...f5!?)* 37.exf6 Rxd5 38.Qe2 exf6 39.Re8+ Kf7 40.Qe6+ Kg7 41.Qe7+ Qxe7 42.Rxe7+ Kh6 43.Rb7 Rd4 although the rook ending is drawish.]

36.fxe5 Rf8?!

[36...Rb5 37.exd6 Qxd6 38.Rd3 and black has the better side of an equal position. Instead black begins to drift under the time pressure -- in this event the clocks only had a 5 second delay, which makes defending positions like this much harder. It is instructive how Howard keeps pressure going.]

37.e6 Rf5 38.Rd3 Qa5 39.g4 Rf8 40.Rf3 Rxf3 41.Kxf3 Qc5 42.Ke4!

The K protects the d-pawn (!) freeing the Q to threaten to penetrate to f7. The question now is, can the black Q keep white busy with checks long enough to prevent that idea?

42...Qg1 43.Qf4 Qe1+?

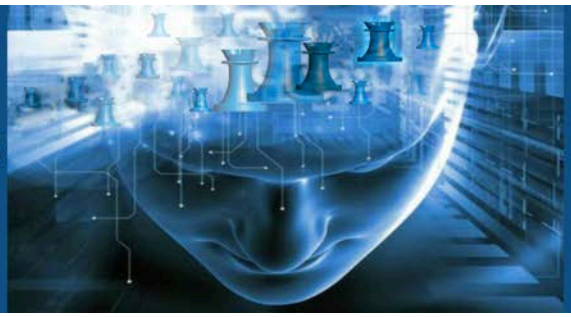
[Missing a nice perpetual check with 43...Qb1+ 44.Kd4 Qb2+ 45.Kc4 Qc3+ 46.Kb5 Qc5+ 47.Ka4 Qa7+ 48.Kxb4 Qc5+ 49.Ka4 Qa7+=]

44.Kf3! [Now that white's Q is threatening Qf7+ white can retreat his K to a hiding place on h4, aware that trading queens is a losing pawn endgame for black.]

44...Qd1+ 45.Kf2 Qc2+ 46.Kg3 Qc3+ 47.Kh4 Qg7 48.g5 Kh8 49.Qxb4 Qe5 50.Qd2 Qe4+ 51.Kg3 Qe5+ 52.Qf4 Qe1+ 53.Kg4 Qd1+ 54.Qf3 Qd4+ 55.Kh3 Qg7 56.Qf4 Qc3+ 57.Kg4 Qg7 58.b4 Kg8 59.b5

1-0

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS



For More Tournament Info Visit the USCF Tournament Site:
www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php

Aug 7 and Aug 14 — STEVE WHARRY CONSAT CLASSIC — Tulsa OK

4-SS with two traditional G/90+30 games played on each of two Consecutive Saturdays. Harvard Avenue Baptist Church, 3235 E. 17th St. (17th & Harvard), Tulsa, OK. Three Sections: Open, Reserve (U1800), Novice (U1200). Prizes (b/30): Open: 1st-$200, X: $100, A: $100. Reserve: 1st-$125, C: $100, D: $100. Novice: 1st $125. U1000/UNR: $100. More if entries allow. REG: Each day, 9:00-10:15am. Rounds: 10:30am and 3:00pm each day. BYES: Two ½-point byes for either day if you can't make it to one of the game days. Entry Fee: $30 for both days, $20 per day if you can only play one day. Adv. Entries: www.paypal.me/Braunlich or T.Braunlich, 1638 S. Carson Ave #803, Tulsa OK 74119. Info: tom.braunlich@cox.net W. Covid Restrictions: Currently masks or vaccinations recommended; play at your own risk. Contact for updates.

Aug 21 — FOUR STATES SUMMER OPEN — JOPLIN MO

4-SS, G/60;d5, Joplin Holiday Inn, 3402 Arizona Ave, Joplin MO 64804. Limited to 38 Players Maximum. Two sections: Open, U1400. EF:$40 Email pre-registration required, cash only at site. martin.stahl@joplinchess.org

Sept 25 — OKC CHESS RAPIDS — Oklahoma City OK

4-SS, G/45;+15. (Dual rated). St. John's Episcopal Church, 5401 N. Brookline, OKC, OK 73112. Three Sections: Open, Reserve(U1600), Booster(U1000). Cash Prizes: Open and Reserve: $200(Guaranteed) 1st each section, plus other cash prizes per entries. Booster: $100(Guaranteed) 1st plus medals. Rounds: 10am-12:30-3-5:30. Registration: 9-9:45am. Entry Fee: $25 top two sections and $20 for Booster for advance entries submitted by 9/23/2021 via www.ochess.org/OKCRapids — All $5 more at the door (cash or check only). BYES: One ½-point bye available Rds.1-3. Inquiries: tom.braunlich@cox.net Covid Restrictions: Currently masks or vaccinations recommended; play at your own risk. But check with www.ochess.org for possible changes in Covid policy. LS W.

Oct 9 -10 — 53rd JERRY SPANN MEMORIAL — Tulsa OK

5-SS, G/90;+30. Site: Tulsa Holiday Inn CITY CENTER, 17 W. Seventh Street, Tulsa OK 74119. 918-585-5898. HR: $95. Three Sections: Open, Reserve (U1800), Novice (U1200). EF: $45 if mailed by 10/4, $55 thereafter, with these discounts: $10 off for Seniors over age 60, FREE for Masters 2200+ (deducted from winnings). FREE entry for new USChess members or those renewing after 18 months off. Registration: 9-9:45am Sat 10/9. Prizes $$2000 (1st Prize Gtd. each section, rest b/55 paid entries): Open: $500(G)-200, X: 200, A: 175. Reserve (U1800): $250(G) C: 175 D: 175, Novice (U1200): $200(G), 1000/below: $125. Rounds: 10-2:30-7, 9-1:15. Byes: One 1/2-pt bye Rds. 1-5 if commit before Sat 9pm. Adv. Entries: www.paypal.me/Braunlich or mail T.Braunlich, 1638 S. Carson Ave.#803 Tulsa OK 74119. Info: tom.braunlich@cox.net. Website: ocfchess.org LS W. *CHECK prior to the tournaments for possible last-minute COVID virus policy changes.

Nov 13-14 — 5th FRANK K BERRY MEMORIAL — Stroud OK

5-SS, G/90;+30. Site: Cattle Country Lodge, 1200 N 8th Ave, Stroud, OK 74079. (Turner Turnpike, Exit 179, then north 200 yards to other side of turnpike.) HR: $95. Three Sections: Open, Reserve (U1800), Novice (U1200). EF: $45 if mailed by 11/9, $55 thereafter, FREE for Masters 2200+ (deducted from winnings). Registration: 9-9:45am Sat 11/13. Prizes $$2200 (1st Prize Gtd. each section, rest b/55 paid entries): Open: $550(G)-250, X: 200, A: 200. Reserve (U1800): $250(G) C: 200 D: 200, Novice (U1200): $200(G), 1000/below: $150. Rounds: 10-2:30-7, 9-1:15. Byes: One 1/2-pt bye Rds. 1-5 if commit before Sat 9pm. Adv. Entries: www.paypal.me/Braunlich or mail T.Braunlich, 1638 S. Carson Ave.#803 Tulsa OK 74119. Info: tom.braunlich@cox.net. Website: ocfchess.org LS W. *CHECK prior to the tournaments for possible last-minute COVID virus policy changes.

Dec 18 — Annual Holiday Open — Tulsa OK

4-SS, Rapid Chess. Details TBA

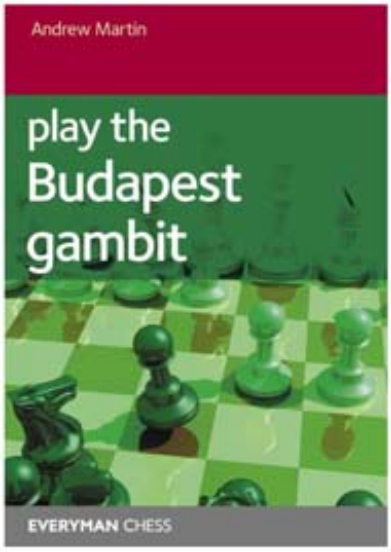
By IM John Donaldson

Play the Budapest Defense
by Andrew Martin

Today, thanks to the analysis of super strong chess engines, many supposedly second-best defenses have turned out to be quite playable, particularly at blitz and rapid. This also holds true at classical time controls when the players are not among the world elite.

This view is shared by English IM Andrew Martin in his inspiring but objective book *Play the Budapest Defense* (Everyman Chess 2021, www.everymanchess.com, paperback, figurine algebraic, 382 pages, $29.95) which covers both the regular Budapest (1.d4 Nf6 2,c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ng4) and the tricky Fajorowicz variation (1.d4 Nf6 2,c4 e5 3.dxe5 Ne4).

Martin uses 164 carefully annotated games to cover both accepted lines and various attempts to decline the Budapest at move three which generally fare poorly. The main line of the Budapest (3…Ng4) normally sees White returning the pawn and trying to utilize some other trumps be it the two bishops (4.Bf4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bb4+ 6.Nbd2 Qe7 7.a3 Ngxe57.a3 Ngxe5 8.Nxe5 Nxe5 9.e3 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2) or the center (4.e4). When he clings to the pawn (4.Bf4 Nc6 5.Nf3 Bb4+ 6.Nc3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 Qe7 8.Qd5! f6 9.exf6 Nxf6 10.Qd3) Black obtains positional compensation due to the crippled White's pawn structure.



While the main lines of the Budapest are sound if sometimes a little boring if White is not ambitious, the Fajorowicz variation (3…Ne4) is a completely different beast. Martin cautions against using it as one's main weapon against 1.d4 in classical chess, but the number of impressive Black victories he gives (particularly a number by Israeli GM Postny in blitz and rapid) show that it definitely has some punch.

Unlike the Benko Gambit, where Black can head for somewhat similar play if White tries to sidestep it with 2.Nf3 (2…c5 3.d5 b5), the Budapest offers no backup and requires having an additional way to meet 1.d4. This practical issue is understandably not addressed in *Play the Budapest Defense*, but prospective Budapest players should be aware of it. That reservation aside, Martin's conclusion that the Budapest can be used as a regular weapon by players up to 2300 and as an occasional surprise at even the highest levels (Ivanchuk played it against Aronian in the 2013 Candidates) seems a fair appraisal.

Play the Budapest Defense is a first-rate guide to this fascinating opening, which has existed on the periphery of chess theory for over 100 years. Martin sympathies are clearly with Black but he never loses his objectivity and many strong plans for White are pointed out throughout this book.

Like all Everyman chess book this book is available not only in a print edition but in a variety of electronic formats.